

## Message Text

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51

ACTION SY-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-05 ISO-00 FBO-01 /014 W

----- 100438

P R 051245Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5333

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, ASEC

SUBJ: MSG HOUSE

REF: 6 FAM 741.5-2 AND 743I; STATE 066064

1. EMBASSY FACED WITH LIMITED NUMBER OF OPTIONS FOR MSG HOUSE, ALL OF WHICH REQUIRE EITHER ADVANCE RENT OR RENOVATIONS.

2. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS HOUSE WITH FOUR LARGE BEDROOMS (THREE OF WHICH COULD BE EASILY PARTITIONED IN TWO) SOON TO BE COMPLETED NEAR AIRPORT, BEACH, ON MAIN BOULEVARD, FIFTEEN MINUTES FROM EMBASSY. BIG KITCHEN, PANTRY, AND LIVING ROOM/DINING AREAS ASSURE ADEQUATE SPACE FOR MSG SOCIAL ACTIVITIES. AS RECREATIONAL OUTLETS VERY LIMITED IN LIBREVILLE, ESPECIALLY FOR BACHELORS WITH RUDIMENTARY FRENCH, PREDICT MOST OFF-DUTY TIME FOR MSG'S WILL BE SPENT IN MSG HOUSE OR ON BEACH. THEREFORE, EMBASSY BELIEVES IT IMPORTANT FOR MSG MORALE THAT THEY HAVE PLEASANT LIVING ENVIRONMENT WITH ROOM TO STRETCH. THIS HOUSE BEST MEETS THAT CRITERIA. COST: 300,00

CFA/MONTH ONE YEAR IN ADVANCE--TOTAL DOLS 15,000 AT 240 CFA TO ONE DOLLAR OR 275,000 CFA/MONTH THREE YEARS IN ADVANCE--TOTAL DOLS 41,250. WE RECOMMEND THREE-YEAR ADVANCE TO AVOID RENT INCREASE NEXT YEAR. IF PROMPT REPLY GIVEN, LANDLORD PROMISES TO COMPLETE HOUSE BY 1 JUNE. ONLY INTERIOR WORK REMAINS. ADVANCE PAID WHEN

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KEYS TURNED OVER.

3. OTHER ALTERNATIVES EMBASSY INVESTIGATED AND RATED INADEQUATE INCLUDE: EMBASSY FINANCED RENOVATION OF AFRICAN-STYLE HOUSE IN SEMI-INDUSTRIAL AREA PROVIDING MINIMUM SLEEPING AND SOCIAL SPACE; EMBASSY FINANCED RENOVATIONS OF WESTERN-STYLE HOUSE OWNED BY MINISTER OF STATE RAWIRI WHICH COULD LEAD TO POLITICALLY SENSITIVE DISCUSSION ON EXTENT OF RENOVATIONS AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS; SMALL, TWO BEDROOM, COLONIAL HOUSE WITH TWO EXTRA BEDROOMS ADDED IN GARDEN PROVIDING MINIMAL LIVING SPACE AND REQUIRING THREE YEARS ADVANCE RENT.

4. EMBASSY REQUESTS IMMEDIATE ALLOTMENT OF DOLS 41,500 AND AUTHORITY TO NEGOTIATE THREE-YEAR LEASE WITH ADVNACE PAYMENT.MCKESSON

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NNN

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